WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing language translation assistance to a user of a mobile terminal, comprising the steps of:

    making available a number of language translation services to the user, the mobile terminal having a database for storing translation data,

    sending a context change signal if the translation data is insufficient to cover a present or anticipated context of the mobile terminal,

    receiving a contextual translation data update signal that includes updates to the database, and

    providing at least one changed language translation service to the user, utilizing the updates to the database.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the present or anticipated context is a country having a primary language different from a language in which the user is fluent.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the present or anticipated context is a setting or location in a country having a primary language different from a language in which the user is fluent.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile terminal provides the language translation assistance, after the receiving step, without requiring support from any language translation resource external to the mobile terminal.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the anticipated context is entered by the user.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the update signal deletes data in the database that is irrelevant to the present or anticipated context.

7.   The method of claim 3, wherein the setting or location is sensed by, determined by, or signaled to the mobile terminal.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one language translation service includes speech recognition and synthesis, as input and output modes respectively.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the context change signal includes, or is accompanied by, an indication of at least one translation need or desire of the user.

10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the indication of at least one translation need or desire includes identification of a language in which the user is fluent.

11.   The method of claim 9, wherein the indication of at least one translation need or desire includes identification of a particular word or phrase that the user will, or may, need to have translated.

12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the number of language translation services is zero if the user is in, or arriving from, a country where the user speaks fluently.

13.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one language translation service includes pronunciation instruction or at least one text-to-speech feature or both.

14.   A computer readable medium encoded with a software data structure for performing the method of claim 1.

15.   A mobile terminal for providing language translation assistance to a user, comprising:
   a language translation device that includes a database for accommodating translation data, the language translation device being equipped to provide a number of language translation services to the user, and the language translation device

being responsive to a contextual translation data update signal that updates the database;

an electronic data input and output module, for providing the contextual translation data update signal to the language translation device, the electronic data input and output module being responsive to a context change signal indicative that the database may need to be updated; and

a context comparator for providing the context change signal if the translation data is insufficient to cover a present or anticipated context of the mobile terminal,

wherein the contextual translation data update signal is input into the mobile terminal, and the context change signal is output from the mobile terminal.

16.   The mobile terminal of claim 15, wherein the present or anticipated context is a country having a primary language different from a language in which the user is fluent.

17.   The mobile terminal of claim 15, wherein the present or anticipated context is a setting or location in a country having a primary language different from a language in which the user is fluent.

18.   The mobile terminal of claim 15, wherein the mobile terminal is configured to provide the language translation assistance, after the update signal updates the database, without requiring support from any language translation resource external to the mobile terminal.

19.   The mobile terminal of claim 17, wherein the anticipated context is entered by the user.

20.   The mobile terminal of claim 15, wherein the update signal deletes data in the database that is irrelevant to the present or anticipated context.

21.   The mobile terminal of claim 17, wherein the setting or location is sensed by, determined by, or signaled to the mobile terminal.

22.   The mobile terminal of claim 15, wherein the at least one language translation service includes speech recognition and synthesis, as input and output modes respectively.

23.   The mobile terminal of claim 15, wherein the context change signal includes, or is accompanied by, an indication of at least one translation need or desire of the user.

24.   The mobile terminal of claim 23, wherein the indication of at least one translation need or desire includes identification of a language in which the user is fluent.

25.   The mobile terminal of claim 23, wherein the indication of at least one translation need or desire includes identification of a particular word or phrase that the user will, or may, need to have translated.

26.   The mobile terminal of claim 15, wherein the number of language translation services is zero if the user is in, or arriving from, a country where the user speaks fluently.

27.   The mobile terminal of claim 15, wherein the at least one language translation service includes pronunciation instruction or at least one text-to-speech feature or both.

28.   A mobile terminal for providing language translation assistance to a user, comprising:

        a language translation device that includes a database for accommodating translation data, the language translation device being equipped to provide a number

of language translation services to the user, and the language translation device being responsive to a contextual translation data update signal that updates the database; and

5   an electronic data input module, for receiving data that arrives at the mobile terminal, and for passing the contextual translation data update signal to the language translation device,

wherein the contextual translation data update signal is dependent upon a context of the mobile terminal.

10   29.   The mobile terminal of claim 28, wherein the update signal is for rendering the translation data sufficient to cover the context that is a present or anticipated context of the mobile terminal, and

wherein the present or anticipated context is a country having a primary language different from a language in which the user is fluent.

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30.   The mobile terminal of claim 28,

wherein the update signal is for rendering the translation data sufficient to cover the context that is a present or anticipated context of the mobile terminal, and

wherein the present or anticipated context is a setting or location within a

20   country having a primary language different from a language in which the user is fluent.

31.   The mobile terminal of claim 28, wherein the electronic data input module is also for outputting data from the mobile terminal.